



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Notice of Floodplain Involvement
Highlands Ethanol Project
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The Department of Energy (DOE) Loan Guarantee Program Office (LGPO) is hereby providing notice of a proposed DOE action in a floodplain. DOE is considering an energy loan guarantee pursuant to the Energy Policy Act for the Highlands Ethanol, LLC Facility in southeastern Highlands County, Florida, approximately 15 miles west of Okeechobee, Florida. The facility will occupy 40 acres of a 100 acre site. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map the site of the proposed facility is within the 100-year floodplain. DOE will be preparing a floodplain assessment as required by DOE regulation 10 CFR 1022. The floodplain assessment will be included as part of an environmental assessment (EA) that DOE is preparing for this project under the National Environmental Policy Act. Interested parties are requested to comment within fifteen days of this notice. Comments or requests for more information may be submitted to Doug Boren at 202-287-5346 or via email at douglas.boren@hq.doe.gov. Another notice will be made when the draft EA is available for review, and the draft EA will be posted to the LGPO website.